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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,205	02/22/2005	Atsuhiro Saito	HOK-0258	7664
74384	7590	12/31/2008	EXAMINER	
Cheng Law Group, PLLC			RIGGLEMAN, JASON PAUL	
1100 17th Street, N.W.				
Suite 503			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Washington, DC 20036			1792	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/31/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/525,205	SAITO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JASON P. RIGGLEMAN	1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Applicant's reply filed on 12/2/2008 is acknowledged. Current pending claims are 8.

Claim 8 is previously presented. Claims 1-7 and 9 are cancelled.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's response, received 12/2/2008, has submitted a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 in an attempt to overcome the 102 (e) rejection of claim 8 in view of Saito et al. (US Patent No. 7150285). As stated before, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131. The applicant's response has failed to establish that reference is "by another". The submitted declaration states that the seven inventors listed on US Patent No. 7150285 are the inventors of the current application; however, *this is problematic since this implies that Mikihiro Yamashita, listed as one of the eight inventors of the current application -- but not on the patent, is not an inventor of the current application.* Accordingly, Mikihiro Yamashita must be either be listed as an inventor of US Patent No. 7150285 or removed as an inventor on the current application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Saito et al. (US Patent No. 7150285).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

4. Saito et al. teaches a cleaning system having a hair removing apparatus (10) and a cleaning device, Fig. 7. The apparatus has a height and an operator head (12) at a top end. The apparatus incorporates an externally controllable electric circuit for driving the operator head and/or charging the apparatus in accordance with an external electric signal (Column 6, Lines 31-58). The cleaning device comprises a housing configured to hold the apparatus in an inverted manner. A basin (50) is formed in the housing for accommodating the operator head. A tank is provided on the housing accommodating volume of cleaning liquid. A supplying means supplies the cleaning fluid from the tank to the basin for cleaning the operator head. A controller activates the supplying means and provides the electric signal. The housing is formed with a signal transmitting means (terminal 91) for transmitting the electric signal. The hair removing apparatus has a signal receiving means which comes into electrical interconnection with the signal transmitting means for giving the electric signal to the electric circuit when the apparatus is held by the housing (see transformer coupling of the windings – Column 6, Lines 53-58). The signal transmitting means is disposed at a portion of the housing upwardly of the basin. The signal receiving means is disposed intermediate the height of the apparatus. The housing is provided with holding means which holds the apparatus in a position where the signal

transmission means is kept in electrical interconnection with the signal receiving means. The holding means includes a mechanism that gives a bias for urging the signal transmitting means towards the signal receiving means, Fig. 7. The housing has a bearing surface (48) for bearing the apparatus. The bearing surface is inclined with respect to a height axis of the housing and is provided with a stopper for engagement with a portion of the apparatus such that the apparatus is guided along the inclined bearing surface and develops the bias force by its own weight when it is engaged with the stopper.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON P. RIGGLEMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-5935. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Barr/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792

Jason P Riggleman
Examiner
Art Unit 1792

/J. P. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 1792